Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 07549 271637Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------071995 280035Z /63
R 271005Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7456

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 07549

EXDIS

FOR EA/J - PLATT; ISA/DASD - ABRAMOWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO), JA, MARR
SUBJECT: FUKUDA SUMMIT: COST SHARING

-REF: TOKYO 7363

SUMMARY: REQUEST MADE TO CHARGE BY DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS NIKAJIMA APRIL 27 IN NAME OF PRIMIN AND FONMIN THAT COST-SHARING NOT BE RAISED DURING SUMMIT ON GROUNDS ANY LEAK WOULD GIVE IMPRESSION OF UNDUE PRESSURE ON GOJ, WHICH COULD COMPLICATE QUESTION IN FUTURE. CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY DEMARCHE TO WASHINGTON, BUT POINTED OUT IT MIGHT BE AWK-WARD IF PRESIDENT DID NOT AT LEAST EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR HELP AGREED TO LAST YEAR, POSSIBLY ADDING THAT US WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD BE DONE IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, CALLED CHARGE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY APRIL 27 TO ASK THAT COST-SHARING NOT BE RAISED DURING SUMMIT VISIT. WHILE NAKAJIMA SUBSEQUENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED MATTER MIGHT ENTER INTO PM'S DIS-CUSSIONS ON HILL, HE SAID THAT IF IT WERE RAISED IN MEET-
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 07549 271637Z

INGS WITH PRESIDENT OR SENIOR OFFICIALS, WHATEVER THE OCCASION, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP FACT FROM BEING KNOWN PUBLICLY. EVEN IF US TOUCHED UPON QUESTION IN GENER-AL TERMS, PRESS AND PUBLIC COULD GAIN IMPRESSION US WAS PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOJ. INASMUCH AS INFORMAL COST-SHAR-ING TALKS HAD BEEN INITIATED IN TOKYO, IT WAS BEST TO LET THESE PROCEED QUIETLY. NAKAJIMA SAID THIS WAS NOT THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SORT OF QUESTION THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED IN A GENERAL WAY, WHEREAS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY SENSITIVE TO THE BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES OF THE US FORCES AND WOULD LIKE TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SOFA.
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2. NAKAJIMA SAID SIMILAR APPROACH HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE BY JAPANESE EMBASSY WITH STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS, BUT HE WISHED TO UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE OF NOT TAKING UP COST-SHARING ON THE BASIS OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BY BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT US WAS FULLY AWARE THAT THIS WAS SENSITIVE ISSUE AND THERE WAS AT NO POINT ANY INTENTION TO TAKE IT UP IN A FORMAL WAY. IT MIGHT SEEM AWKWARD, HOWEVER, IN THE LIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S SUMMIT, IF THE PRESIDENT WERE NOT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE JAPAN HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE IN ALLEVIATING LABOR COSTS, PERHAPS ADDING THAT ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE JAPAN MIGHT FIND FEASIBLE WOULD BE EQUALLY APPRECIATED. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE POLITICAL PROBLEMS ON US SIDE, WHERE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO INTERESTED PARTIES IN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES THAT COST-SHARING WAS NOT OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO HAVE EVEN BEEN MENTIONED IN PASSING. TAMBA (CHIEF, SECURITY DIVISION) SAID THERE WAS CONCONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 07549 271637Z

CERN LEST, AS A RESULT OF LEAKS, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN BE FORCED INTO STATEMENTS RESTRICTING COST-SHARING HELP TO WHICH JAPAN MIGHT OTHERWISE AGREE. CHARGE AGREED WITH NAKAJIMA'S COMMENT THAT SUMMIT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON GLOBAL PROBLEMS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT, BUT DID NOT THINK A BRIEF PASSING REFERENCE TO COST-SHARING, PERHAPS DURING LUNCH, TO WHICH PM WOULD BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO RESPOND, WOULD DETRACT FROM THIS APPROACH.

4. COMMENT: CHARGE UNDERTOOK OF COURSE TO CONVEY NAKAJIMA'S APPROACH FORTHWITH. IN VIEW OF INTEREST EXPRESSED BY PM AND FONMIN, WE CONCUR IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO HAVE COST-SHARING ON THE AGENDA OR TO TAKE IT UP IN ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A FORMAL WAY. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, FORESEE ANY DAMAGE FROM THE SORT OF PASSING REFERENCE WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED: THAT APPRECIATION BE EXPRESSED FOR LAST YEAR'S HELP AND ANYTHING FURTHER JAPAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO AGREE TO. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD BE MADE CASUALLY BY THE PRESIDENT OR PERHAPS RESERVED FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FONMIN. IN MAKING THIS ASSESSMENT, WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY ADVERSE REACTION TO WHOLE HOST OF ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED OVER PAST TWO WEEKS, SUGGESTING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THAT GOJ IS SEEKING WAYS FURTHER TO ASSIST USFJ BUDGET AND THAT MATTER MIGHT COME UP AT SUMMIT. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE JAPANESE ARE OVERREACTING TO POTENTIAL PRESS CRITICISM THAT MAY VERY WELL NOT MATERIALIZE. DEPT. SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT MOFA, AND POSSIBLY FUKUDA AND SONODA THEMSELVES, FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT ISSUE. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE MATTER, PERHAPS ESCALATING THEIR LEVEL OF APPROACH. SHERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COSTS, BURDENSHARING, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO07549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0270
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978048/aaaaagau.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3035509
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUKUDA SUMMIT: COST SHARING -REF: TOKYO 7363 SUMMARY: REQUEST MADE TO CHARGE BY DIRGEN AMERICA
TAGS: OVIP, MARR, JA, US, (FUKUDA, TAKEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53e834b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014